Introduction of British Telecom System in MTNL

2395. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a system in the MTNL network which is the prototype of the British Telecom network; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the cost thereof and by when it is proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A Pilot project with the help of Telecom Engineering Centre has been proposed to improve the reliability of cable data and record keeping since with over 2 million telephones in MTNL Delhi and Bombay, manual methods are becoming increasingly difficult to rely upon. One system under examination checks on correctness of external plant records and tests the cable pairs for faults. Such systems are also in use in U.K. However, no final decision has been taken on the system.

Allotment of PCOs to Social Service Institutions

2396. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for allotting PCOs to the institutions engaged in social service;

(b) what is the number of PCOs sanctioned during the last three years to such institutions in Lucknow and Kanpur; and

(c) how many applications are pending at present and the reasons for delay in their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As per revised STD/ISD, PCO Policy effective from 24.07.93. Charitable institutions are included in the preferential category for allotment of STD/ISD PCOs. Local PCOs are allotted liberally subject to technical feasibility.

(b) One PCO has been allotted at Lucknow, there is none at Kanpur.

(c) Six applications are pending for consideration by the STD/ISD PCO allotment Committee at Lucknow. No applications are pending at Kanpur.

Commemorative Stamp on Kumbha Mela

2397. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the proposals under Government's consideration for issuing commemorative and special postal stamps;

(b) whether Government would consider to issue special stamps depicting the Kumbha Mela of Allahabad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A list of the proposals of issue of special and commemorative postage stamps to be placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee is at statement (*see* below). Proposals recommended by the Committee are then considered by the Government for issue of commemorative and special postage stamps.

(b) There is no proposal currently under consideration for issue of special postage stamp on the Kumbha Mela of Allahabad.

(c) Government has not received any proposal for issue of a special postage stamp on the Kumbha Mela of Allahabad.

Statement

List of proposals to be placed before the PAC

1. Poultry Production
2. William Booth
3. Choudhary Brahm Prakash
4. Golden Jubilee Year of Central Excise under the Central Board of Excise & Customs.
5. St. George College
6. Siyaram Sharan Gupt
7. 125th Anniversary of Ammunition Factory, Khadki, Pune
8. Kerala Varma Viliya Koil Thampuran
9. Shivappa Nayak & Rani Chennamma
10. Gopi Krishna
11. Shri Bibhuti Bhushan Bandyopadhyaya
12. Shri Tenneti Viswanatham
13. World Tourism Organisation
14. 50th Anniversary of Food & Agriculture Organisation in 1995
15. Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja
16. Anant Gopal Sheorey
17. Mahadji Scindia
18. Vaid Surat Singh
19. Master Mitra Sen
20. Ravi Samrat Dr. Viswanatha Satyanarayana
21. Devika Rani
22. Punjab National Bank
23. Safe Blood
24. Florence Nightingale
25. Maharaja Hari Singh
26. Birth Centenary of Dr. Salim Ali
27. Padam Bhushan Pandit Kunjilal Dube
28. Hemanta Kumar Basu
29. 150th Anniversary of Birth of Thomas Alva Edison
30. Agri Horticulture Society—Calcutta
31. Pt. Lakshmi Kanta Maitra
32. Dr. Chintamanrao Deshmukh
33. Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha
34. Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeo Botany
35. Stamp on 'Cellular Jail'
36. Sarah Tucker College
37. Pandurang Vaman Kane
38. Alfred Nobel
39. Bhagat Puran Singh
40. University of Rourkee
41. Shri Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar
42. Shri Deshpran Krishnantha Sarma.

Deteriorating Postal Services in the Country

2398. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deteriorating postal services in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that as a result of the negligence and serious delays the letters/money orders posted from one part of the country, specially villages, take months and years to reach their destinations;

(c) whether Government are also aware that the acknowledged receipts of registered letters are seldom received by the senders because of the negligence of postal authorities;

(d) what are the reasons that even the ordinary mail has started taking at least a week or so for delivery from one metropolitan twon to other metropolitan town; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to restore the efficiency of the postal system which existed before the introduction of the Speed Post?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Department has laid down broad standards for mail services in the country. There is no indication that the services are deteriorating.

(b) No, Sir. Department makes every effort to deliver letters and money